

MINUTES

—OF THE—

Forty-Fifth Annual Session

—OF THE—

JUDSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

—HELD WITH—

SHORTERVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH,

Shorterville, Ala., Oct. 3d 4th and 5th, 1895.

OFFICERS:

HON. J. B. WARD, Moderator	Abbeyville,	Ala.
ELD. A. J. PRESTON, Clerk	"	"
B. F. HARRIS, Treasurer	Shorterville,	"

EXECUTIVE BOARD:

M. V. CAPPS	Abbeyville,	Ala.
A. ARMSTRONG	"	"
W. L. MCGEE	Lawrenceville,	"
J. J. BOYETT	Dothan,	"
F. B. JERNIGAN	Belcher,	"

The next session will be held with Tolbert Baptist Church, commencing on Thursday before the first Sabbath in October, 1896. Introductory to be preached by
Br. A. J. Preston.

Montgomery, Ala.:
ALABAMA BAPTIST,
1895.



MINUTES.

The forty-fifth annual session of the Judson Baptist Association assembled in the meeting-house of the Shorterville Baptist church at 11 a. m., Thursday, October 3, 1895.

The Introductory sermon was preached by Eld. A. Daughety, from 1 John 3:1.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Hon. J. B. Ward, the former Moderator, called the Association to order at 1:30 p. m., and after prayer by Dr. W. C. Cleveland, the letters from the churches were read by A. Daughety and R. W. Miller, and the names of the delegates enrolled as follows:

1. Abbeville—A. L. Martin, A. J. Preston, R. W. Miller.
2. Adoniram—W. H. Parker, W. A. Herndon.
3. Bethel—J. W. Malone, A. L. Ray, J. E. Vinson, jr.
4. Beulah—J. J. Boyett, T. H. Trotter.
5. Christian Grove—J. B. Deshazo, W. S. Hall.
6. Center—J. M. Wells, John Roney.
7. Concord—
8. Enon—D. E. Burdeshaw, H. A. Powel.
9. Fellowship—D. W. Capps, M. M. Murphy.
10. Friendship—Wm. Phillips, T. H. Hickman.
11. Harmony—J. W. Searcy, J. W. Langford.
12. Headland—John Adams, S. D. Turner, J. A. Campbell.
13. Hebron—A. J. Armstrong, J. B. Hasty.
14. Judson—J. E. Holmes, J. S. Campbell.
15. Lawrenceville—Curtis Espy.
16. Mt. Aerial—F. B. Jernigan, R. D. Richards.
17. Oaky Grove—J. D. Jackson, B. M. Holland.
18. Old Zion—A. Starling, G. W. Fleming.
19. Pleasant Grove—M. V. Capps, C. C. Murphy, G. M. Murphy.
20. Shorterville—J. B. Mills, G. R. Irwin, W. H. Miller.
21. Smyrna—J. F. Holoman, W. W. Whidden.
22. Sardis—T. E. Gilford, E. D. Holly.
23. Tolbert—W. H. Elmore, Jackson Shelby.
24. Union—

After the enrollment of delegates, by motion of J. B. Mills, the rules were suspended and Hon. J. B. Ward was re-elected

Moderator by acclamation, and A. J. Preston was elected Clerk in the same way.

The Order of Business as printed in the minutes of last year was adopted.

PETITIONARY LETTERS.

Smyrna church returned the letter granted her at the last session of this Association.

CORRESPONDENTS.

The following brethren were received as Correspondents: Eld. W. O. Crumbley from the Bethel Association, and Dr. W. C. Cleveland from the Columbia Association and also a representative of the State Mission Board.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

The Moderator appointed the following special committees, viz:

Devotional—Brethren R. W. Miller, M. V. Capps, and the delegates of Shorterville church.

Nominations—Brethren J. W. Malone, M. M. Murphy and J. J. Boyett.

Finance—Brethren F. E. Gilford, D. W. Capps and J. E. Vinson, jr.

Deceased Ministers and Deacons—Brethren J. F. Holoman, John A. Adams and J. B. Deshazo.

Publications—Brethren J. B. Mills, E. D. Holly and J. B. Deshazo.

Orphanage—Brethren J. A. Campbell, A. Daughety and D. E. Burdeshaw.

On motion, it was left to the delegates of Shorterville church to arrange the hours for meeting.

APPOINTED CORRESPONDENTS.

The following brethren were appointed as Correspondents, viz:

To Columbia Association—D. E. Burdeshaw, J. J. Boyett, W. H. Elmore, A. Daughety.

To Eufaula Association—F. B. Jernigan, J. B. Deshazo.

To Newton Association—A. L. Martin, A. J. Preston, T. A. Trawick.

The appointment of delegates to the State Convention was referred to the Committee on Nominations.

THE ELECTION OF AN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

On motion, the rules were suspended and the following brethren were elected by acclamation, viz: M. V. Capps, A. Armstrong, W. L. McGee, F. B. Jernigan and J. J. Boyett.

THE ELECTION OF A TREASURER.

The rules were suspended and Bro. B. F. Harris was elected Treasurer by acclamation.

HOURS OF MEETING.

The committee to arrange hours for meeting, reported that we would meet at 8:30 a. m. and adjourn for dinner, and meet at 2 p. m. and adjourn at pleasure.

The report of the Executive Committee was read by T. A. Trawick, and discussed by J. W. Malone, M. V. Capps, A. J. Preston and J. W. Foster, and adopted.

On motion of J. W. Malone, the Association agreed to pay Bro. Martin the amount promised him by the Executive Committee.

It was announced that Bro. A. L. Ray would preach at 7:30 p. m., and Bro. W. C. Cleveland at 11 a. m. to-morrow.

The report of A. L. Martin, Evangelist, was read by Bro. R. W. Miller, and discussed by brethren J. W. Malone, A. J. Preston and J. W. Foster and adopted.

THE REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

The report on Home Missions was read by Bro. T. A. Trawick.

The report on Foreign Missions was read by Bro. J. A. Campbell.

The report on State Missions was read by Bro. J. J. Boyett.

The discussion of these reports was made the special order of business for 9:30 a. m. Friday.

The Association then adjourned until 8:30 a. m. Friday.

SECOND DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1895.

The Association met pursuant to adjournment. The religious exercises were led by Eld. J. W. Malone.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

The Moderator announced that the Finance Committee was ready to receive the money sent up by the delegates from the churches and individuals.

Dr. W. C. Cleveland asked for the Minutes of the Association from 1853.

The following resolution on Temperance was offered by A.

J. Preston, and discussed by A. J. Preston, W. C. Cleveland, H. L. Crumbley, and adopted:

Resolved, That this Association denounce and condemn the use, by any of its members, of all intoxicating liquors as a beverage; and we pledge ourselves to do all in our power to free our people from the dangers and temptations incident to the intemperate use of alcoholic drinks.

The Mission Reports were then discussed by A. L. Martin, J. W. Malone and A. J. Preston, after which the Moderator announced that the hour for preaching had arrived. Five minutes' recess was given, after which Dr. W. C. Cleveland preached from Matthew 5:13.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Moderator called the body to order at 2 p. m., and after prayer, led by A. J. Preston, the subject of Missions was taken up and discussed by Bro. Cleveland.

A collection was then taken amounting to \$16, which was divided equally between the State, Home and Foreign Boards.

Delegates from each of the following churches agreed to try to raise 37½ cents per member during this associational year: Abbeville, Adoniram, Beulah, Christian Grove, Center, Enon, Friendship, Harmony, Hebron, Oaky Grove, Old Zion, Pleasant Grove, Shorterville and Smyrna.

The reports on Missions were then adopted.

The report on Orphanage was read and discussed by Dr. Cleveland and adopted.

It was announced that D. E. Burdeshaw would preach at the stand at 3 p. m., and that Bro. H. L. Crumbley would preach at 7:30 p. m.

The report on Education was read by Bro. H. L. Crumbley, and discussed by brethren Cleveland and Preston, and adopted.

The Circular Letter was read by Bro. R. W. Miller, and adopted.

The Sabbath School report was read by Bro. A. J. Preston, and discussed by brethren H. L. Crumbley and J. B. Ward, and adopted.

The Treasurer's report was read by Bro. R. W. Miller, and adopted.

The report of the Finance Committee was read by Bro. T. E. Gilford, and adopted.

The Association then adjourned until 8:30 a. m. Saturday. Prayer by Bro. J. A. Campbell.

Bro. H. L. Crumbley occupied the pulpit at 7:30 p. m., using for a text John 10:7-9.

THIRD DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1895.

The Moderator called the Association to order at 8:30 a. m., and Bro. J. A. Campbell led in prayer, after which the Moderator announced the body ready for business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS.

Bro. Capps asked the Association to instruct the Executive Committee as to the employment of an Evangelist.

It was moved by A. J. Preston that the Executive Committee be instructed to employ an Evangelist.

This motion was discussed at some length by brethren Malone, Preston, Campbell, Holomon and others.

Bro. J. B. Mills then moved to amend by striking out and substituting the following:

"That the Executive Committee be instructed to employ an Evangelist, if it is thought best after consulting each of the churches."

The motion, as amended, was carried unanimously.

The typographical error in Article 2d of the Constitution was corrected by striking out "and fifty" at the end of the third line.

The report on Publications was read by Bro. J. B. Mills and discussed by brethren A. J. Preston and H. L. Crumbley, and adopted.

The report of the Committee on Nominations was read by Bro. J. J. Boyett and adopted.

The report on Indigent Ministers was read by Bro. A. J. Armstrong and adopted.

The report on Deceased Ministers and Deacons was read by Bro. J. F. Holoman, and adopted.

On motion, the Moderator was granted further time to appoint the Standing Committees.

The rules were suspended and A. J. Preston was elected delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention.

On motion of Bro. Capps, a collection was taken for associational purposes, amounting to \$13.95.

It was moved by A. J. Armstrong to pay the Clerk \$25.00. This motion was opposed by the Clerk, and at his own request was amended so as to allow him only \$15.00 for his services.

It was announced that Bro. Jernigan would preach at the stand at 10 a. m.

On motion of Bro. R. W. Miller, the Clerk was instructed to have a new Order of Business printed in the Minutes.

On motion of Bro. J. B. Mills, the Treasurer was instructed

to pay the Clerk \$15.00, and then pay the Evangelist the balance on hand.

The following resolution of thanks was offered by R. W. Miller, and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due, and that they are hereby tendered to the brethren, sisters and friends of Shorterville and community, for their kind and liberal hospitality extended us during our stay in their midst.

The Association then adjourned, to meet with Tolbert church, on Thursday before the first Sunday in October, 1896.

Bro. Preston then preached to us, using for a text Ps. 46:1, and after singing "How firm a foundation," and giving the parting hand, Bro. Crumbley led in prayer. A few remarks were made by the Moderator, and the benediction was pronounced by A. J. Preston.

J. B. WARD, MODERATOR.

A. J. PRESTON, Clerk.



REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AS ADOPTED.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

DEAR BRETHREN—Your committee met at Abbeville on the 6th day of October, 1894, and made a contract with Rev. A. L. Martin to continue his work as evangelist for at least three months, for which we agreed to pay him \$50 per month, he agreeing to donate \$25 of this amount to the Association.

After faithfully carrying out his part of the contract, Bro. Martin, in company with Bro. Preston, made a tour of the Association, preaching and lecturing to almost every church within our bounds. It is, in our opinion, the duty of the Association to pay for this extra work. But we leave that question for the Association to settle.

Fraternally,

T. A. TRAWICK,
J. W. FOSTER,
M. V. CAPPS,
A. ARMSTRONG,
W. L. MCGEE,
Committee.

EVANGELIST'S REPORT.

Report of A. L. Martin, Evangelist of the Judson Baptist Association, for the year ending September 30, 1895:

DEAR BRETHREN—Under a contract with your Executive Committee, I commenced traveling as evangelist on the 3d of November, 1894, and have since that time done ninety-eight days work within the bounds of the Association. I presume that the report of that committee will show what the contract was, and also the amount due me for the work done under the same. I have visited nearly all the churches, some of them twice, and aided in protracted meetings.

We have reasons to feel thankful to God for the outpouring of his spirit, under the power and influence of which many have been added to the churches. I believe, too, that we are more united in the great doctrines of the gospel than ever before; but while we should be thankful for all this, we have much to regret. The anti-missionary spirit with which we have had to contend right in our own ranks for the past several years, grows no less; and the number of anti-missionaries even seems to increase. Just how we are to meet this question, we must inquire of the Lord.

Many of our churches are making some feeble effort towards the Sabbath School work, some of them having fine schools and are doing a grand work.

I find differences among the churches concerning the work of the evangelist. Some think he ought to visit the churches on their regular preaching days, and others seem to think that there is but little use in having one at all; but this the Association must settle.

Fraternally submitted,

A. L. MARTIN, Evangelist.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

By reviewing the work of the State Board for the year ending July 1, 1895, we find that the number of men employed is 40, that 1 church has been constituted, 43 Sunday Schools organized, 10 Ladies' Missionary Societies organized, 101 prayer meetings organized, 23,566 tracts distributed, 7 meeting houses commenced and 8 finished. Money collected for meeting houses \$477.90, for missions \$1,575.27, for ministerial education \$15.50, Orphans' Home \$92.80, for Bible and Colportage Board \$42.40, number of Bibles and Testaments donated 80; 19 young preachers helped in Howard College and 6 in the Seminary. To meet the expenses of the above work, and much more which we can not mention here, the total receipts of the board have been \$19,510.09; of this amount \$300 is included from the Baptist Sunday School Board at Nashville. When we carefully review all this work which has been done in the name of the Lord, and for the advancement of his cause, and take into consideration the further fact that under the preaching and labors of these forty men sent out, 42 persons have been restored to the church, 305 received by letter and 337 baptized, and that 369 have been baptized by others, we should take courage and be stimulated to greater activity and more earnest efforts in support of the board in accomplishing this grand work.

Fraternally submitted,

A. J. TEAGUE, Chairman,
S. M. SINGLETERRY,
J. J. BOYETT,

Committee.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

This nation is a large family, with one common home dependent upon a common system of laws, possessing common interest, and pressing forward to a common destiny. To provide the means of grace, the bread and water of life and the best religious culture for our own house, is the object and purpose of the Home Mission Board. There are at present 425 missionaries in the employ of the board who are working in different parts of the Southern States, the Indian Territory and Cuba. They baptized last year 5,921 and constituted 178 churches. The board gives the average of their missionaries as follows: He preaches to five congregations, and averages two sermons per week. He attends forty prayer meetings, baptizes seventeen believers, and receives fifteen by letter. He organizes one Sabbath School, and every third year he organizes two, into which he gathers the first year forty pupils and teachers. He makes 160 religious visits, constitutes one church every two years, and builds a house of worship every three years, which costs, with lot, \$900. He gives away six Bibles and Testaments and 3,000 tracts. He costs the denomination \$300 per annum. The house of worship he builds every third year adds to the wealth of the denomination a sum equal to his entire support. It is also estimated that at least one-eighth of all the white churches in the South were established by this board. Now, if we will consider the progress of our work during the course of this century, we will begin to appreciate the work of the Home Missions and the importance of sustaining our missionaries. The progress of evangelical Christianity in the United States, as a whole, has been very great. In 1800 there was one evangelical communicant to every 14½ inhabitants, in 1850 one to every 6½ inhabitants, in 1880 one to every five inhabitants, and in 1894 there is one evangelical communicant to every 4½ inhabitants. From 1850 to 1890 the population increased 116

per cent., and evangelical church members 185 per cent. As for the progress of the Baptist denomination, it has been simply phenomenal. In 1800 American Baptists numbered one to every forty-three of the population; in 1890 one to every twenty of population.

Thus we see the growth of our denomination has been far more rapid than the growth of the population. Yet, when we remember the flood of immigration which is pouring in upon us every year from unchristian nations, and also the natural tendencies of mankind to sin and go astray, we see the need of increased efforts, for unless we christianize the heathen who are coming to us from other countries, they will heathenize our children; unless we christianize our cities, they will become miasmatic, pestilential pools of filth, which morally will poison the country and become snares and death traps for the youth of both city and country.

Many of our young people, fresh from the quiet home in the country, plunge into revelry and debauchery almost as soon as they enter city life. We must, by means of the gospel of Christ, change our centers of population from hot-beds of vice to nurseries of virtue. This we can do by supplying our board with means with which to employ the men.

May the Lord, whose we are and whom we delight to serve, help us to be faithful and loyal to him.

T. A. TRAWICK,
W. A. HERNDON,
R. B. LEE,
Committee.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

We, the Committee on Foreign Missions, are glad to say that the spirit of missions is on the increase among the Baptists of our land, and some of them are beginning to listen to the cry for help of those in foreign lands. Dear brother, is it not time for you to awake and to listen to the command of the Master, which says, "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields, for they are white already to harvest."—John 4:35. Others have obeyed and were astonished that the laborers were so few.

J. A. CAMPBELL, Chairman.

REPORT ON EDUCATION.

Henry W. Grady said in his great speech at the University of Virginia that "The University is the training camp of the future, the scholar the champion of coming years. Napoleon overran Europe with drum-tap and bivouac. The next Napoleon shall form his battalions at the call of the school-house bell, and his captains shall come with cap and gown." Never before in the history of our country has education been so essential as at present. Standing upon the threshold of the twentieth century, with all the improvements, inventions and discoveries of preceding ages looking down upon us, we are constantly surrounded by new and perplexing problems—problems with which our forefathers never grappled. We live to-day in the climax of history, the culmination of the centuries, the focus of the ages. An intellectual revolution is sweeping over the world, breaking down established opinions and dissolving foundations on which historical faiths have stood. Institutions hoary with age have become effete, systems in which ages have trusted have become fossilized. To meet the demands of this iconoclastic age, to be prepared to successfully contend with the new issues that are continually springing up, we need a broad education,—an education that will strengthen our phys-

ical, elevate our moral, and cultivate our mental beings. We need an education that will serve as a foundation stone for this grand republic; one on which it may rest safe and secure in times of war and in times of peace.

Some writer has said that "The safety of a government lies in the education of the masses of its people," and in order for the masses to be educated, you must first educate the individual.

Intellectual improvement is now within the reach of every one. Colleges and schools dot every hillside and valley of our country. While nearly all denominations are taking an active interest in elevating the people and eradicating ignorance, vice and superstition, no denomination is more wide awake than the Baptist. The Baptists of the United States are a progressive people. They never look backward, but always forward. Chicago and Brown Universities are colleges which rank with the great institutions of America and Europe. In our own State, the Judson has sent out hundreds of polished, educated and refined young women to adorn society and make the world better. Its alumnae, scattered as they are throughout the Southland, have exerted an influence for good that is untold in its effects and extent. Howard College stands at the foot of Red Mountain like some beacon light sending forth its effulgent rays of intelligence and illuminating the hearthstones and firesides of our land with a halo of knowledge that will endure forever. Young ministers are being educated there who will go out to carry the joyful tidings of salvation to the civilized world. The Baptists are also supporting the Theological Seminary at Louisville, which is the equal of any similar institution in the world.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. ESPY,
M. V. CAPPS,
J. E. HOLMES,
Committee.

REPORT ON INDIGENT MINISTERS.

We, your Committee on Indigent Ministers, beg leave to report that after special inquiry we find no real distress among our aged ministers. We should be thankful for the blessings of the Lord upon us all.

Respectfully submitted,

A. J. ARMSTRONG, Chairman.

REPORT ON DECEASED MINISTERS AND DEACONS.

We, your Committee on Deceased Ministers and Deacons, ask leave to submit the following as our report: Whereas nothing has come to our knowledge of the death of any of the heads of our churches, with hearts of gratitude to the great head of the church for his continued mercies, we tender this report to the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

F. H. HOLMES,
J. B. DESHAZO,
J. H. ADAMS,
Committee.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee on Sunday Schools, beg leave to make the following report: We find from the different church letters that we have only five Sunday Schools. We regret this carelessness of our pastors very much, and hope that in the future they will remember that they are responsible for this neglect of their duty as the teachers

of God's people. The membership at large is also responsible for this important line of church work—to train up the children in the way they should go. Train up the child in the way it should go, and when it is old it will not depart from it.

Respectfully submitted,

J. W. HERNDON,
J. W. FOSTER,
Committee.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

We, your Committee on Nominations, recommend that the next session of this Association be held with the Tolbert church, on Thursday before the first Sunday in October, and that Eld. A. J. Preston preach the introductory sermon, and M. V. Capps write the circular letter. We also recommend that the following brethren be elected delegates to the State Convention, which convenes at Selma, Ala., November 13, 1895: A. L. Martin, J. B. Ward, A. J. Preston, R. W. Miller, A. L. Ray, D. E. Burdeshaw and J. W. Herndon.

J. W. MALONE,
M. M. MURPHY,
J. J. BOYETT,
Committee.

REPORT ON PUBLICATIONS.

Every person is a trinity, i. e., each of us possess three natures, viz: Physical, mental and moral. It is the duty of every father to provide for the physical needs of his children; he should also look to the cultivation of their minds, but above all he cannot afford to neglect the development of their moral and social natures. Therefore, those who would promote the happiness of their children should place in their hands such literature as will elevate their minds and hearts. To this end we recommend that every Baptist take their State organ, The Alabama Baptist, and the Mission Journal. We recommend the Convention series of Sunday School literature; we also recommend the careful study of the Bible at home and in our Sabbath Schools.

Respectfully submitted,

J. B. MILLS, Chairman.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

State Missions.....	\$ 15 20
Home Missions.....	35 02
Foreign Missions.....	32 35
Indigent Ministers.....	1 00
Minutes.....	24 90
Associational purposes.....	90 90
Total amount.....	\$198 47

REPORT ON ORPHANAGE.

We, your Committee on Orphanage, report that a few years since the Baptists of Alabama established an Orphanage in Evergreen. That there are now thirty-nine children in the Home asking for the support of the denomination. Rev. J. W. Stewart, one of our best men, is in charge of the institution, and uses carefully all contributions made. We have not paid all that is due for the property. The last payment must be made in January next. This institution de-

serves the sympathy and support of God's people. We suggest that the Committee on Orphanage be made one of the standing committees of this Association.

J. A. CAMPBELL,
A. DAUGHTERY,
D. E. BURDESHAW,
Committee.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

T. A. TRAWICK, Treasurer,

In account with the Judson Association :

1894.	DR.	
Oct. 6.	To Amount cash on hand.....	\$ 20 97
	“ “ from Finance Committee..	170 82—\$191 79
1895.	CR.	
Oct. 6.	By amount paid A. L. Ray for minutes.....	\$ 25 00
	“ “ Clerk	20 00
	“ “ “ Martin, Evangelist..	120 00—\$165 00
1895.		
Oct. 1.	Balance in hands of Treasurer.....	\$ 23 79

Respectfully submitted,

T. A. TRAWICK, Treasurer.

PLEDGES TO THE ASSOCIATION.

Abbeville.....	\$10 00
Christian Grove.....	2 00
Center.....	2 00
Fellowship.....	5 00
Headland.....	5 00
Hebron.....	5 00
Pleasant Grove.....	15 00
Shorterville.....	5 00
Sardis.....	2 00
Total	\$51 00

PERSONAL PLEDGES.

M. V. Capps.....	\$ 5 00
A. J. Armstrong.....	5 00
J. B. Ward.....	5 00
John Hastey.....	2 00
J. B. Mills.....	2 00
D. E. Burdeshaw.....	2 00
A. Armstrong.....	1 00
J. J. Boyett.....	1 00
M. M. Murphy.....	1 00
W. H. Parker.....	1 00
John Raney.....	1 00
A. Daughety.....	1 00
W. F. Mills.....	1 00
T. E. Guilford.....	1 00
J. C. Gaylard.....	1 00
Judge J. W. Foster.....	10 00
W. H. Elmore.....	50
Total.....	\$91 50

CIRCULAR LETTER.

DEAR BRETHREN: Inasmuch as you have imposed upon me the duty of writing a letter to the churches, I will attempt to offer a few thoughts on—

THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

I am told by linguists that *Ekklesia* is the Greek word which is translated church in the New Testament, and that this word is composed of *ex*, from, or out of, and *kaleo* to call—called out. It denotes a company of persons called out, selected, chosen and separated from a more general concourse of people. God does this calling, selecting, choosing; but immersion is the visible sign by which we separate ourselves from the world and become a member of Christ's Visible Church on earth.

(1.) THE CHURCH DEFINED.

A Christian church is a company of regenerate persons, baptized on a profession of faith in Christ; united under covenant for worship, instruction, the observance of Christian ordinances, and for such service as the gospel requires; recognizing and accepting Christ as their supreme Lord and Lawgiver, and taking his word as their only and sufficient rule of faith and practice in all matters of conscience and religion.

(2.) WHEN AND BY WHOM ESTABLISHED.

Was the church of Jesus Christ established in the days of Abraham, Moses, or the Prophets, or did Christ set up his own kingdom and establish his own church? Many years after the death of Moses we hear the prophet Daniel say, "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.—Dan. 2:44.

This prophecy was made B. C. 603, and was fulfilled by Christ, who said, "Upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." When his work was finished he prayed, "Father, glorify thou thy Son; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."

(3.) THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THE CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED.

We may understand the object or purpose of the church from the commission given by its founder: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."—Matt. 28:19. This was the marching order of our blessed Master, and is still binding upon us; for the gates of hell have never prevailed against the church. It is claimed by some, however, that the commission ended with the twelve, and that the gospel was preached to every creature on the day of pentecost. If this is true, then we have no authority to baptize any one in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Again, if the commission ended with the twelve, then that precious promise, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," also ended. Those only who obey the command have a right to claim the promise.

But we know that the gospel of the kingdom has not been preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, for the end has not yet come, and Christ says, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations: and then shall the end come."—Matt. 24:14. And again he says, "Thus it is

written, and thus it behooved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." —Luke 24:46, 47. Let us now turn to Acts 1:8, and we shall find there recorded the last words of our blessed Savior, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth." The preaching of Peter on the day of Pentecost was only the "beginning at Jerusalem" as Christ had commanded.

But some one will ask, Did not every creature under heaven hear the gospel before the death of the Apostles? I answer most emphatically, no! The passage relied upon to prove that every creature had heard the gospel, is found in Col. 1:23, but where the approved version has, "Which was preached to every creature," the new version has, "Which was preached in all creation under heaven." Paul speaks here, of course, hyperbolically, meaning the teaching which you heard from Epaphras is the same which has been published universally by the Apostles.

No, Paul was a missionary as long as he lived. Let us follow his example. This we are trying to do, being "Built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the chief corner stone, in whom all the building fitly joined together groweth into an holy temple in the Lord."

If we understand anything of the purpose for which the church of Jesus Christ was established, it was to evangelize the world. This fact is recognized by almost all Christians. Believing this as we do, we have organized ourselves into an association, and we have declared in our constitution that "Her principal business shall be to promote the glory of God by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel and other means in accordance with the gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this association."

Respectfully submitted,

R. W. MILLER.

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This union shall be known and distinguished by the style and title of the Judson Baptist Association.

ART. 2. This Association shall be composed of representatives from the churches in the union, in the following ratio: All churches composed of one hundred members and under shall be allowed two messengers; those having over one hundred members, three messengers; those having over one hundred and fifty and not two hundred members, four messengers; and so on in graduation—one messenger for every fifty members, who shall be required to furnish satisfactory evidence of their appointment by their churches before they take their seats.

ART. 3. The messengers, when convened, shall organize themselves into a deliberative body, by the election of a moderator and clerk. These officers shall be chosen by ballot at each annual meeting, and continue in office until new ones are elected.

ART. 4. The Association shall not interfere with the rights of the churches of which she is composed. She shall regard them as independent bodies in all matters of internal government, and only act as an advisory council, assuming no authority except what is expressly delegated to her by the churches, or evidently implied by the very nature of this compact; she nevertheless claims authority over her own members, the messengers of the churches, and in justice and propriety, must have power to withdraw from and disown all churches that depart from the principles of this compact by becoming unorthodox in faith or disorderly in practice. She should, therefore, regard all the churches united under this Constitution with a vigilant eye for good. (Her principal business shall be to promote the glory of God by extending his kingdom of grace on earth, through the medium of preaching the gospel and other means in accordance with the gospel; to cultivate union and fellowship with all the churches of Christ, and especially with those united in this Association.)

ART. 5. Newly constituted churches, or churches dismissed from other associations of the same faith and order, may be admitted into this Union by their sending their messengers to an annual meeting with a petition, and by those messengers agreeing to the Abstract of Principles herewith published.

ART. 6. The churches of this Union shall transmit to every annual session of this Association written communications, specifying the names of the messengers, number in fellowship, baptized, received by letter, dismissed, excluded, restored and dead, since last session, and all other information which the churches may deem important, which shall be read and minuted accordingly.

ART. 7. This Association shall have a fund, supplied by the voluntary contributions of the churches, and all money thus contributed shall be transmitted from the churches and paid over through the committee on finance, to the Treasurer, who shall be elected by ballot and holds his office during the pleasure of the Association. He shall receive and manage the funds according to the orders of the Association, and present annually for insertion in the minutes, a clear and full statement of all receipts and expenditures.

ART. 8. This Association shall furnish the churches with the minutes of every session.

ART. 9. This Association shall not take cognizance of any query

sent up by the churches unless they have endeavored to solve the same and failed, nor of any difficulty between churches, unless they have pursued the directions contained in the 18th chapter of Matthew and have not been able to settle it; then the Association shall take such matters into consideration and act upon them at her discretion.

ART. 10. It shall be the duty of the clerk of the Association to keep a regular file of printed minutes of every session of this body, and deliver over the same to his successor in office.

ART. 11. This Association, when convened, shall be governed by proper rules of decorum, which she is authorized to form and amend according to her own views.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be altered or amended at a regular meeting of this body, and by a concurring voice of two-thirds of the members present: Provided, such alteration or amendment be approved by a majority of the churches.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

ARTICLE 1. We believe in the existence of one only true and living God, and that he has made himself known to his people under the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in essence and equal in divine perfection.

ART. 2. We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the word of God, and the only rule of faith and practice.

ART. 3. We believe in the doctrine of election, that God chose his people in Christ before the foundation of the world; that they should be holy and without blame before him in love, having predestined them to the adoption of children by Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will.

ART. 4. We believe in the doctrine of original sin.

ART. 5. We believe in man's incompetency to recover himself from the fallen state he is in by nature, by his own will and ability.

ART. 6. We believe sinners are justified in the sight of God only by the imputed righteousness of Christ.

ART. 7. We believe that God's elect shall be called, regenerated and sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

ART. 8. We believe that nothing can separate the true believers from the love of God, but that they will be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

ART. 9. We believe that Baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ, that the true believers are the only subjects of these ordinances, and that immersion only is Baptism.

ART. 10. We believe in the resurrection of the dead and a general judgment.

ART. 11. We believe the punishment of the wicked to be everlasting and the joys of the righteous to be eternal.

ART. 12. We believe that no minister has a right to administer the ordinances unless he is called of God, and come under the imposition of hands by a Presbytery, and he is in fellowship in the church of which he is a member.

RULES OF DECORUM.

1. Every query sent up to the Association by any church in the union, shall be read and put to a vote by the Moderator whether it

it shall be debated or not, and if there be a majority for it, it shall be taken up and investigated; but if not, it shall be withdrawn, provided always that those be first considered which affect the union of the churches.

2. Every motion made and seconded shall come under the observation of the Association, except it be withdrawn by the member who made it.

3. Every person who speaks in debate shall rise from his seat and address the Moderator, and he shall not be interrupted while speaking, unless he depart from the subject in debate.

4. No person shall speak more than three times on the same subject without leave of the body.

5. No member shall abruptly break off or absent himself without leave of the body, and if he so does, he shall be marked as an absentee.

6. The names of the members of the Association shall be enrolled by the clerk, and called over as often as the body may require.

7. The Moderator shall be entitled to the same privilege of speaking as any other member, provided the chair be filled, but he shall not vote except the body be equally divided.

8. It shall be the duty of the clerk to keep a regular record of the proceedings of the body.

9. The minutes of the Association shall be read and signed by the Moderator and Clerk before the body rises.

10. Amendments may be made to this form of government by two-thirds of the members in session.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

State Missions—A. Daughety, A. J. Teague, J. B. Hasty.

Home Missions—W. A. Herndon, J. A. Campbell, J. J. Boyett.

Foreign Missions—A. J. Preston, S. J. Belcher, A. J. Armstrong.

Temperance—M. V. Capps, E. D. Holley, W. L. McGee.

Education—J. S. Espy, Early Hendley, R. C. Granberry.

Sabbath Schools—R. W. Miller, J. B. Jernigan, J. W. Searcy.

Orphans' Home—T. A. Trawick, D. W. Capps, W. W. Kirkland.

Publications—J. F. Holoman, B. R. Sellers, John Whidden.

Indigent Ministers—A. L. Ray, W. J. Doswell, R. M. Espy.

FINANCIAL EXHIBIT OF THE JUDSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—1895.

CHURCHES.

	State Missions— Cash.	State Missions— Vouchers.	Home Missions— Cash.	Foreign Missions —Cash.	Indigent Ministers.	Minutes.	Associational Purposes.	S. S. Benevolence. Cash.	S. S. Expenses.	Ministerial Edu- cation (Voucher.)	Other Benevo- lence (Voucher.)	Pastor's Salary.	Repairs, Fuel, the Poor, Etc.	Total.
Abbeville-----	\$ 1 10	\$ 8 75	\$ 7 50	\$ 7 50	\$-----	\$ 2 50	\$ 15 00	\$13 16	\$27 11	\$27 95	\$ 3 00	\$ 225 00	\$ 900 00	\$1238 56
Admiral-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	50	5 00	-----	-----	-----	50	-----	-----	6 50
Bedford-----	1 00	-----	1 00	-----	-----	1 00	3 50	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	6 50
Bedford-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 00	1 50	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	3 85
Christian Grove-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 00	2 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	4 50
Center-----	1 00	-----	-----	50	-----	1 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	4 50
Clinton-----	2 50	-----	-----	2 50	-----	75	2 50	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	6 75
Fellowship-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 00
Friendship-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	50	1 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 50
Harmony-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 50	5 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	6 50
Headland-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	2 00	7 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	9 00
Hebron-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	50	4 50	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	5 00
Jackson-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 00
Lawrenceville-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	90	50	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 40
Mt. Aerial-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	75	2 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	2 75
Old Grove-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	50	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	2 00
Pleasant Grove-----	-----	-----	10 00	5 00	1 00	1 50	2 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	16 50
Sards-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 50	7 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	3 50
Shortsville-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	2 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	30 35
Stonyrna-----	4 17	-----	10 18	10 17	-----	75	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	6 92
Tolbert-----	-----	-----	1 00	-----	-----	1 25	20 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	1 25
Individual Pledges	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	10 00	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	20 00
Missions collected-----	5 35	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	14 20	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	17 00
Collected for associational purposes-----	-----	-----	6 34	6 33	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	14 20
Total-----	\$15 20	\$ 8 75	\$35 02	\$2 55	1 00	24 90	104 20	13 15	27 11	27 95	3 00	225 00	900 00	1409 63

STATISTICS OF THE JUDSON BAPTIST ASSOCIATION—1895.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S P. O.	Membership last Reported.	Increase by			Decrease by					Present Membership.	Sunday School Officers & Teachers	Sunday School Pupils.	Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meeting.	Reports Revival.
						Baptism.	Letter.	Restoration.	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.							
* Abbeville	Henry	A. J. Preston	R. W. Miller	Abbeville	182	29	13	3	10	1	30	1	135	15	135	1st 63d	1	1	
Adrian	Henry	J. W. Malone	W. H. Parker	Hartburg	41								40						
Beulah	Barbour	"	G. W. Walker	Baker's Hill	118	15	3		2	2	1	135		40					
Christian Grove	Henry	W. A. Crumble	J. W. Pittman	Bohannon	73	13	7	1	1	2	1	91							
Center	Barbour	R. B. Lee	W. A. James	Faulkner	61	6	1	1			1	65		1st					
Concord	Henry	D. E. Burdshaw	E. M. Honey	Newville	88	7	5	2	4	5	2	90							
Edison	"	R. C. Deal	G. M. Ward	Blackwood	99														
Fellowship	"	A. Donahuey	A. H. Taylor	Kinsey	44	1	2	2	1			40			2d				
Friendship	"	A. Armstrong	D. W. Capps	Chapp	85	4	4	1	9			87							
Harmony	"	W. O. Crumpley	Wm. Phillips	Shortsville	38	10	3					40			3d				
Hebron	"	A. L. Ray	J. M. Searey	Edwin	9			3			1	70							
Headland	"	Arts Armstrong	J. T. Krowls	Columbia	58	9			4	4	1	157							
Judson	"	R. C. Deal	J. E. Holmes	Headland	102	6			3	1		32							
Lawrenceville	"	J. W. Malone	N. L. Hawley	Westley	46	8	3		8	1		32							
Mt. Aetna	Barbour	R. B. Lee	W. C. Jernigan	Lawrenceville	36	1			8			32		2d					
Mt. Pleasant	"	"	"	Hecher															
Oakley Grove	Henry	J. T. Barnes	F. M. Holland	Abbeville	30	17		6			58								
Old Zion	"	J. W. Malone	A. Sturting	Shortsville	29	1					29								
Pleasant Grove	"	J. J. White	S. M. Singletary	Abbeville	117	3	9	1	1	1	20	1	108	2d					
Sardis	"	A. L. Ray	J. Ward	Lawrenceville	31	20	5		6	4	3	140	2d						
Shortsville	"	R. L. Crumpley	W. F. Mills	Shortsville	141	6	5		5	4	3	140							
Temper	"	A. B. McCall	J. D. Baughcy	Bohannon	110	5	5	2	10	4	110								
Tolbert	"	Arts Armstrong	M. P. Sholey	Barham	116														
Union	"	"	"	"															
Total					161	53	22	62	23	50	12	1630	15	135		1	1		

*Sunday School Superintendent's Name and Postoffice—J. B. Ward, Abbeville. *Restored at this session.

ORDAINED MINISTERS AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

A. L. Martin	Abbeville.
A. J. Preston	"
J. W. Malone	Wesley.
J. W. Herndon	Shorterville.
D. E. Burdeshaw	Kincey.
J. W. Knowles	Bracken.
R. B. Lee	Eufaula.
M. Bracken	Bracken.
A. Daughety	Cowarts.
S. J. Knowles	Headland.
W. H. F. Smith	Headland.
T. J. Barns	Kincey.

LICENTIATES AND THEIR POSTOFFICES.

J. A. Campbell	Headland.
A. H. Taylor	Kincey.
F. B. Jernigan	Belcher.
Robert Pasamore	Headland.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

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- I. Call to order by former Moderator.
 - II. Introductory Sermon.
 - III. Enrollment of Delegates.
 - IV. Election of Officers—Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer.
 - V. Call for Petitionary Letters.
 - VI. Appoint Special Committees, viz:
 - (1) Devotional, (2) Nominations, (3) Finance, (4) Deceased Ministers and Deacons.
 - VII. Receive Correspondents and Visitors.
 - VIII. Appoint Correspondents.
 - IX. Elect Executive Committee.
 - X. Miscellaneous Business.
 - XI. Reports of Standing Committees—
 - (1) Missions—(a) Associational, (b) State, (c) Home, (d) Foreign.
 - (2) Education.
 - (3) Temperance.
 - (4) Indigent Ministers.
 - (5) Sabbath Schools.
 - (6) Executive Committee.
 - (7) Orphanage.
 - (8) Publication.
 - XII. Report of Special Committees—
 - (1) Nominations, (2) Deceased Ministers, (3) Finance.
 - XIII. Report of Treasurer.
 - XIV. Appoint Standing Committees.
 - XV. Elect a Delegate to the Southern Baptist Convention.
 - XVI. Miscellaneous Business.

